SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE FOR
CITY OF ELY STUDY AREA
AND BAKER-LUND STUDY AREA
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Introduction

Local communities need current and accurate information to help plan and make important decisions. This report was prepared to provide a socioeconomic profile for City of Ely Study Area and the Baker-Lund Study Area of White Pine County. The information presented is intended to provide interested parties with a variety of demographic, social, economic and housing data for each of two areas of the county. The data results of this study can be used for background material for a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) in White Pine County and the feasibility analysis for a regional business incubator.

City of Ely Study Area (ESA) consists of the Census Bureau’s Zip Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs) 89301 (Ely) and 89318 (McGill). The Baker-Lund Study Area consists of ZCTAs 89311 (Baker) and 89317 (Lund).\(^1\) A small number of people in White Pine County (less than 2%) live in ZCTA 893XX. Because 893XX includes parts of Eureka County, these individuals are not included in the estimates for either of the two areas. See Figure 1 for a map of White Pine County ZCTAs. Original underlying data for these two areas are from U. S. Census 2000 data in Summary Files 1, 3 and 4\(^2\). UCED calculated sums and averages for the areas using the Census Bureau ZCTA data.

To put each individual community or study area data in perspective, data for City of Ely Study Area and Baker-Lund Study Area are compared with the county as a whole, the State of Nevada and the United States. County, state and national level statistics are from the same Census Bureau summary files. The source of all information is indicated under each graph.

\(^1\)Zip Code Tabulation Areas do not exactly correspond to U.S. Postal Service ZIP codes. Also, Zip Code Tabulation Areas do not correlate with other Census Bureau geography levels such as states, counties, census tracts and so forth and are not comparable over time. For more information see http://www.census.gov/geo/www/tiger/tigermap.html#ZIP.

\(^2\)Data in Summary File 1 is 100% data from the Census short-form which attempts to canvas each household in the United States and includes very basic information such as race, age and sex. Data in Summary File 3 is sample data from the Census long-form given to approximately 1 in 6 households in the nation, which is then weighted so as to represent the entire population. Summary File 3 and 4 contain more detailed information such as income, education and occupation.
Census Bureau ZCTAs for White Pine County

- Baker-Lund Study Area ZCTAs
- City of Ely Study Area ZCTAs
- 893XX (not included)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Cartographic Boundary Files
Population, Year 2000

Population is a count of total residents in an area. Residence refers to the “usual place” where a person lives, which is not necessarily the same as legal residence.

The total population for White Pine County in 2000 was 9181. City of Ely Study Area contained an estimated population of 8,545 individuals. The Baker-Lund region contained an estimated 452 individuals.

Source: U.S.Census Bureau SF1
**Population by Race, Year 2000**

The Census Bureau tabulates race from self-identification. There are five basic race categories. They are White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and “other” race for persons who do not identify with one of the specified groups. For the first time, persons may report more than one racial group.

Compared with the state and national percentages, White Pine County has a lower percentage of individuals who are black, Asian and of “other” (unspecified) race, but a somewhat higher percentage of American Indians. City of Ely Study Area demographic characteristics are similar to White Pine County characteristics. The Baker-Lund Study Area has a very low percentage of minorities of any kind.
Population by Hispanic Origin, Year 2000

Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Nevada has a higher proportion of Hispanic population (19.7%) than does the nation as a whole (12.5%). City of Ely Study Area has a slightly lower proportion of Hispanic population than the national average, at 11.5% and 12.5%, respectively. Only a small percentage (3.1%) of individuals in the Baker-Lund Study Area are Hispanic, according to Census Bureau data.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau SF1
Population by Age, Year 2000

Age data is reported for White Pine County, Nevada and the United States as well as the City of Ely Study Area and the Baker Lund Study Area. In 2000, 21% of the total population in the U.S. was 55 years of age or older, while in City of Ely Study Area, 23.5% of the total population was 55 years of age or older. About 25% of the population of the Baker-Lund Study Area was 55 years of age or older. In the Baker-Lund region, the population in the prime working years from 25 to 44 was a smaller percentage, making up only 22.6% of the total as compared to 30.5% in the City of Ely Study Area.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau SF1
Median Age, Year 2000

In 2000, the median age of the total population for the county was 37.7 years, which is higher than the U.S. median age of 35.3 years and the state median age of 35 years. Median age is reported for each ZCTA area, showing the wide variation between areas from a low of 27.8 years in the 893XX area, which includes portions of Eureka Co., to a high of 49.3 for the Baker region where it is likely that there is a higher proportion of retirees.³

³ Areas with small populations will show more variability in estimated averages than will areas with larger populations.
Population by Highest Level of Educational Attainment, Year 2000

Educational attainment shows the highest level of education completed by adult persons. The term “adult” refers to persons 25 years old or older. Educational attainment provides insight into the type of workforce available and provides some indication of an area’s educational system.

In 2000, 24.4% of the US adult population had completed college and had a bachelor’s or higher degree. For the City of Ely Study and the Baker-Lund Study Areas, 11.1% and 24.6%, respectively, of the adult population had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Also, 18.6% and 7.1% of adults in the City of Ely and the Baker-Lund Study Areas, respectively, had not completed high school. For comparison, 19.6% and 19.3% of adults nationwide and in the state of Nevada, respectively, had not completed high school.

Sources: U. S. Census Bureau, SF3
The City of Ely Study Area had a much higher proportionate share of adults without a high school diploma when compared to the Baker-Lund Study Area, state of Nevada, and nation. A pocket of highly educated individuals live in the Baker-Lund region. These individuals are an asset for the Baker Lund Study Area. Unfortunately, this same population is an older population, so it is likely that fewer of these individuals are in their prime working years. In order to compete in the “new economy,” an educated local workforce is essential. The City of Ely Study Area has proportionate shares of the adult population with college or professional degrees that are below the national and state average. This educational level for City of Ely Study Area may make it difficult to compete for “new economy” industries and jobs.
Total Households & Average Household Size, Year 2000

Total households are all occupied housing units. Average household size is calculated by dividing total persons in households by the number of households.\(^4\)

In 2000, it was reported that there were 3,031 households in the City of Ely Study Area, with an average household size of 2.41 persons. The Baker-Lund region contained an estimated 191 households with a slightly smaller average household size of 2.37 persons. Household size for both regions was lower than the national and state averages, which were 2.62 and 2.59, respectively.

\(^4\) Individuals in group quarters such as nursing homes, prisons or dormitories are not included.
Household Characteristics, Year 2000

The Census Bureau defines two types of households: nonfamily and family. A family contains at least two members related by blood, marriage or adoption. A nonfamily household can be either a person living alone or sharing a housing unit with nonrelatives only. Family households can be maintained either by a married couple or by a man or woman living with other relatives. In 2000, 51.7% of the total households in the U.S. were family households that contained a married couple with or without children. The Baker-Lund region has somewhat larger proportion of married couple households both with and without children (57.6%) than does the City of Ely Study Area (51.7%).

Percent Population by Age Group, Year 2000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau SF1: P18
**Households with Person 65+, Year 2000**

In 2000, 23.4% of total households in the U.S. included a person who was 65 years or older. A larger proportion of White Pine County households, 26.9%, included a person who was 65 years or older. Proportions in the City of Ely Study Area are similar to the county. The Baker-Lund Study Area had an even higher percentage of households (28.3%) with a person 65 years or older.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
<td>26.9%</td>
<td>28.3%</td>
<td>27.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Census Bureau SF1
Household Income Distribution by Income Category, Year 1999

Household income includes the total income received in the calendar year of all household members aged 15 years and older. Income sources include wages, self-employment, interest and dividends, Social Security, public assistance, retirement, disability, and other sources such as alimony, child support and unemployment.

In 2000, 42% of the total households in the U.S. had household income greater than $50,000, while only 35.4% of the households in the county had household income greater than $50,000. Approximately 29% of the households in the U.S. had household income less than $25,000, while 32.8% of the households in White Pine County had household income less than $25,000. Proportions are similar for the county and City of Ely Study Area. The Baker-Lund Study Area had a smaller proportion of households with an income of less than $25,000 (23.4%) and a larger proportion of households in both the $25,000 to $49,999 range and the $75,000 to $99,999 range when compared to the City of Ely Study Area.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau SF 3
**Average Household Income & Per Capita Income, Year 1999**

Average household income represents the mean of the income distribution. It is calculated from the aggregate of total household income divided by all households in the distribution. Per capita income is the average income for all persons, calculated from total income of persons 15 years and older.

Average household income in the City of Ely Study Area was $44,125, while the Baker Lund Study Area had a higher average household income of $47,885. Both were lower than the U.S. average, $56,643 per household or Nevada’s average, $57,469 per household. Per capita income follows a similar pattern.

![Average Household Income, Average Per Capita Income, 1999](image_url)

Sources: U.S. Census SF3
**Labor Force & Unemployment, Year 2000**

Labor force includes civilian employed, unemployed, and the U.S. Armed Forces 16 years and over. Employed includes all persons who were at work or temporarily absent. Unemployed are persons seeking work in the previous 4 weeks and able to work. An unemployment rate is total unemployed divided by the sum of civilian employed plus unemployed persons.5

In 2000, the county had 3593 persons in the labor force. The unemployment rate for City of Ely Study Area was about 7.9%. The rate in the Baker-Lund Study Area was estimated to be 0%. Comparable unemployment rates from Census 2000 for the U.S. and Nevada were lower than White Pine’s at 5.8% and 6.2% respectively.

![Total 2000 Labor Force and 2000 Unemployment](chart.png)

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau SF 3

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**Labor Force Participation Rate, Year 2000**

Labor force participation rate is people in the labor force divided by the total population aged 16 and over. Homemakers, retired people, students and those who were in the labor force but are no longer actively pursuing employment are some of the people who could make up the population that was not participating in the labor force.

City of Ely Study Area has a lower estimated labor participation rate (49.1%) than does the state of Nevada (65.2%) or the United States (63.9%). The Baker Lund region has a somewhat higher participation rate (58.8%) than the City of Ely Study Area.
Labor Force Characteristics, Year 2000

Labor force characteristics are reported for persons 16 years and older who were employed during the reference week, which is the week preceding enumeration. “White collar” is defined to include management and professional jobs as well as sales, office and administrative support occupations. Blue collar includes construction, extraction, maintenance, production, transportation or material moving occupations.

In 2000, the State of Nevada labor force was 53.3% white collar, 24.6% service, and 21.8% blue collar. The composition of the Ely Study Area labor force was quite similar to the state’s with 25.3% service, 50% white collar, and 22.7% blue-collar jobs. A higher percentage of the workforce was employed in farming, fishing and forestry jobs (2%) than at the state level (0.3%). The Baker Lund Study Area had the highest proportion of workforce employed with farming, fishing and forestry jobs (3.9 %), blue collar jobs (27.3%) and service jobs (31.2%).

![Employed Population by Occupation, Year 2000](image_url)

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau SF3
Civilian Employed Population by Industry

Employed persons were also classified by industry from information given on the Census 2000 long form. The North American Industry Classification System was used to categorize the type of work in which the person’s employer was engaged.

11.1% of the employed population of White Pine County worked in agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting or mining industries (close to 70% of these persons were employed in the mining industry) compared to 1.6% of Nevada’s employed population. When compared to the state, wholesale and retail trade, education, health and social services and public administration in White Pine Co employed a larger percentage of individuals. The Baker-Lund Study Area had a higher percentage of individuals employed in agricultural, forestry, fishing and hunting, mining, construction, wholesale trade and education than did the City of Ely Study Area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDUSTRY</th>
<th>United States</th>
<th>Nevada</th>
<th>White Pine Co.</th>
<th>ESA</th>
<th>Baker-Lund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale trade</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail trade</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation and warehousing, and utilities</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational, health and social services</td>
<td>19.9%</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>18.0%</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
<td>20.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other services (except public administration)</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public administration</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: U.S. Census SF3
**Workers by Place of Work, 2000**

Employed persons, both civilian and military, were asked to give the address of their workplace on the Census long-form. Data given is for workers 16 years of age or older.

White Pine County had a larger percentage of workers working in a different in-state county (5.9%) than did the state (3.6%). About a third of these out-of-county workers traveled to Elko Co., and approximately 20% each traveled to Clark, Nye or Eureka County.

**Workers 16 and Over by Place of Work**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>U.S.</th>
<th>NV</th>
<th>White Pine</th>
<th>ESA</th>
<th>Baker-Lund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worked inside state of residence</td>
<td>73.3%</td>
<td>94.8%</td>
<td>92.4%</td>
<td>92.4%</td>
<td>92.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worked outside county of residence inside state of residence</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worked outside state of residence</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau SF3
Housing Characteristics, Year 2000

Total housing units are all occupied and vacant units, year-round and seasonal. Average home value is obtained by dividing the aggregate value of all owner-occupied units by total owner-occupied housing units. Home value is the homeowner’s estimate of value, for owner-occupied units which include only one-family houses on less than 10 acres without a business or medical office on the property.

In 2000, there were 4,439 total housing units in White Pine County. The average home value in the county was $87,340 as compared to the Nevada average of about $157,000 in the year 2000. The estimated average home value for the Baker-Lund region is higher than in the City of Ely Study Area. Approximately 24% of occupied homes in the Baker-Lund region were valued at over $150,000 per home.

![Average Home Value and Total Housing Units, Year 2000](chart)

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau SF3
Housing Occupancy, Year 2000

Occupied housing units are considered as occupied if the persons living there at the time of enumeration did not have a usual home elsewhere. Occupancy rate is calculated by dividing total occupied units by total housing units.

In 2000, the U.S. had a 91% occupancy rate. The county had a much lower estimated occupancy rate of 73.9%.

Sources: U.S. Census SF3
Type of Housing Vacancy, Year 2000

Total vacant housing units include the number of housing units vacant year-round plus the number of housing units that are vacant seasonally. Vacant housing units are considered as vacant if unoccupied or if the occupants had a usual home elsewhere at the time of enumeration.

In 2000, the U.S. had 5.7% of its total housing stock vacant year-round and 3.3% vacant seasonally, for a 9% total vacancy rate. In contrast, the county had 20.8% of total housing units vacant year-round and 5.2% vacant seasonally for a much higher 26% total vacancy rate. The Baker-Lund region had a higher proportion of total housing units that were vacant seasonally (9.5%) than did the City of Ely Study Area (4.2%).

![Bar chart showing total, seasonal, and year-round vacancy rates for the United States, Nevada, White Pine, ESA, and Baker-Lund regions.](chart.png)

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau SF3
Summary

Below are summary notes of this publication:

- Data for the City of Ely Study Area consists of Census Bureau Zip Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTA) 89301 (Ely) and 89318 (McGill). The Baker-Lund Study Area consists of ZCTAs 89311 (Baker) and 89317 (Lund).

- The population of City of Ely Study Area is 8,545, while the Baker-Lund Study Area population is 452.

- Distribution of the population by race shows reduced ethnic diversity in the Baker-Lund Study Area, when compared to City of Ely Study Area. White Pine County has less ethnic diversity than either the state or the nation.

- For the City of Ely Study Area and the Baker-Lund Study Area, proportionate share of total population over 65 years of age was 13.5% and 16.6%, respectively, in 2000 as compared to the state of Nevada and national averages of 11.0% and 12.4%, respectively.

- Median age for the Ely and the Lund area ZCTAs in 2000 was reported as 37 and 37.3 years of age, respectively, as compared to the higher median age in McGill and Baker ZCTAs of 42.7 and 49.3 years of age, respectively.

- Median age for White Pine County as a whole in 2000 was older at 37.7 years of age as compared to the state of Nevada and the U.S. of 35.0 years of age and 35.3 years of age, respectively.

- In 2000, 24.4% of the national population 25 years of age or older graduated from college or higher education levels. However, only 11.1% of the City of Ely Study Area were college graduates or higher. In sharp contrast, 24.6% of the Baker Lund Area adult population was estimated to have obtained a college level or higher degree. This would indicate that the City of Ely Study Area, where the majority of White Pine County residents reside, would have difficulty competing in the new economy.

- Average household size for the City of Ely Study Area and the Baker-Lund Study Area was 2.41 and 2.37 persons, respectively, in 2000. For comparison, the national and state average household sizes were reported to be 2.59 persons and 2.62 persons, respectively.

- Approximately 27.1% and 28.3% of the City of Ely Study Area and the Baker-Lund Study Area households, respectively, had persons 65 years or older.

- For the City of Ely Study Area and the Baker-Lund Study Area, 64.9% and 59.4% of study area households, respectively, had household incomes of $50,000 or less. For both the City of Ely and Baker-Lund Study Areas, this value was above the national (58%) and state (55.9%) average. For both the City of Ely Study Area ($44,125) and the Baker-Lund Study Area ($47,885), average household income was below the national ($56,643) and state ($57,469) average household income average.
• The City of Ely Study Area and the Baker-Lund Study Area had a lower labor force participation rate of 49.1% and 58.8%, respectively, than the state of Nevada (65.2%), and the nation (63.9%).

• The City of Ely Study Area (25.3%) realized a slightly higher proportionate share of total labor force in the service occupations as compared to the state of Nevada (24.6%). However, the Baker-Lund Study Area (31.2%) realized an even higher proportionate share of total labor force in the service occupations as compared to the state of Nevada (24.6%).

• The Baker-Lund Study Area had 3.9% of persons employed in fishing, farming or forestry occupations as compared to 2.0% in the City of Ely Study Area, 0.3% in the state of Nevada, and 0.7% in the U.S.

• For the City of Ely Study Area and the Baker-Lund Study Area, the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, and Mining Sector was 10.9% and 13.4%, respectively, of study area employment as compared to the national and state of Nevada proportionate share in this economic sector of 1.6% and 1.9%, respectively.

• Approximately 92.4% and 92.2% of City Ely Study Area and Baker-Lund Study Area workers 16 years of age or older, respectively, work in White Pine County.

• None of the workers 16 years of age or older in the Baker-Lund Study Area are estimated to work outside the state of Nevada as compared to about 1.8% in the City of Ely Study Area.

• Approximately 5.8% of workers 16 years of age or older in the City of Ely Study Area work in other Nevada counties as compared to 7.8% for the Baker-Lund Study Area.

• In 2000, average housing values in the City of Ely Study Area ($86,224) and the Baker-Lund Study Area ($105,787) were below the state of Nevada ($157,200) and national ($151,900) average in 2000.

• In 2000, the housing occupancy rate for the City of Ely Study Area (75.1%) and the Baker-Lund Study Area (73.0%) were lower than the state of Nevada rate (90.8%) and national rate (91.0%) in 1999.

• The percent of seasonal housing vacancy in the Baker-Lund Study Area (9.5%) was much higher than the City of Ely Study Area (4.2%), Ely County (5.2%), the state of Nevada (2.3%), and the nation (3.3%).